

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Original) A freeze-dried preparation comprising methylcobalamin or a pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof and an excipient, wherein at least one or more species of the excipient is in an amorphous state.
2. (Currently Amended) The freeze-dried preparation according to ~~Claim~~ claim 1, wherein the methylcobalamin or the pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof is also in an amorphous state.
3. (Currently Amended) The freeze-dried preparation according to ~~Claim~~ claim 1 ~~or~~ 2, wherein the excipient which is in the amorphous state comprises a sugar.
4. (Currently Amended) The freeze-dried preparation according to ~~any one of Claims claim 1 through 3~~, wherein the excipient further comprises a sugar alcohol.
5. (Currently Amended) The freeze-dried preparation according to ~~any one of Claims 1, through 4~~, further claim 1, further comprising a pH adjuster.
6. (Currently Amended) The freeze-dried preparation according to ~~any one of Claims claim 1 through 5~~, further comprising an anti-oxidant.
7. (Currently Amended) The freeze-dried preparation according to ~~any one of Claims 1 through 4~~, ~~wherein~~ claim 1, wherein when the excipient comprises the sugar and the sugar alcohol, the excipient in the amorphous state is contained in an amount of at least 20% by weight, based on the total weight of the sugar and the sugar alcohol.

8. (Original) A freeze-dried preparation comprising methylcobalamin or a pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof and an excipient, the freeze-dried preparation obtained by a production process which comprises the steps of:
 - (a) dissolving the methylcobalamin or the pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof and the excipient in a solvent; and
 - (b) freeze-drying the solution so as to produce an amorphous state of at least one or more species of the excipient.
9. (Currently Amended) The freeze-dried preparation according to ~~Claim~~ claim 8, wherein the freeze-drying in the step (b) is accomplished so as to further produce an amorphous state of the methylcobalamin or the pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof.
10. (Currently Amended) The freeze-dried preparation according to ~~Claim~~ claim 8 ~~or~~ 9, wherein the pre-freezing in the step (b) is performed at a temperature at which the excipient does not crystallize, or below the temperature.
11. (Currently Amended) The freeze-dried preparation according to ~~any one of Claims~~ claim 8 ~~through 10~~, wherein the excipient which is in the amorphous state comprises a sugar.
12. (Currently Amended) The freeze-dried preparation according to ~~any one of Claims~~ claim 8 ~~through 11~~, wherein the excipient further comprises a sugar alcohol.
13. (Currently Amended) The freeze-dried preparation according to ~~any one of Claims~~ claim 8 ~~through 12~~, wherein a pH adjuster is also dissolved in the step (a).
14. (Currently Amended) The freeze-dried preparation according to ~~any one of Claims~~ claim 8 ~~through 13~~, wherein an anti-oxidant is also dissolved in the step (a).

15. (Currently Amended) The freeze-dried preparation according to ~~any one of Claims claim~~ claim 8 ~~through 12~~, wherein when the excipient comprises the sugar and the sugar alcohol, the excipient in the amorphous state is contained in an amount of at least 20% by weight, based on the total weight of the sugar and the sugar alcohol.
16. (Original) A process for producing a freeze-dried preparation comprising methylcobalamin which comprises the steps of:
 - (1) dissolving the methylcobalamin or a pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof and an excipient in a solvent; and
 - (2) freeze-drying the solution so as to produce an amorphous state of at least one or more species of the excipient.
17. (Currently Amended) The process according to ~~Claim claim~~ claim 16, wherein the freeze drying in the step (2) is performed so as to further produce an amorphous state of the methylcobalamin or the pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof.
18. (Currently Amended) The process according to ~~Claim claim~~ claim 16 ~~or 17~~, wherein the pre-freezing in the step (2) is performed at a temperature at which the excipient does not crystallize, or below the temperature.
19. (Currently Amended) The process according to ~~any one of Claims claim~~ claim 16 ~~through 18~~, wherein the excipient in the amorphous state comprises a sugar.
20. (Currently Amended) The process according to ~~any one of Claims claim~~ claim 16 ~~through 19~~, wherein the excipient further comprises a sugar alcohol.
21. (Currently Amended) The process according to ~~any one of Claims claim~~ claim 16 ~~through 20~~, wherein the freeze-dried preparation further comprises a pH adjuster.

22. (Currently Amended) The process according to ~~any one of Claims~~ claim 16 ~~through 21~~, wherein the freeze-dried preparation further comprises an anti-oxidant.
23. (Currently Amended) The process according to ~~any one of Claims~~ claim 16 ~~through 22~~, wherein when the excipient comprises the sugar and the sugar alcohol, the excipient in the amorphous state is contained in an amount of at least 20% by weight, based on the total weight of the sugar and the sugar alcohol.